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Restorative Justice Practices: Addressing The Eleven Percent

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Abstract

This paper analyzes, assesses, and introduces the importance of a “Needs Assessment” that can potentially record the effectiveness of the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) practices with its youth offenders. VORP is a program within the purview of the Restorative Justice Partners, INC. organization. The functions of this program works closely with the probation department of Monterey County, along with various community partners; its practices are funneled through a restorative justice lense. Current data will show that 89% of youth offenders who have successfully completed the VORP program and are closed compliant do not reoffend, meanwhile the other 11% recidivates back into the Juvenile criminal justice system and may be seen again in the program, or worse. The needs assessment renders useful in exploiting areas of support being neglected by status quo. Although RJP’s vision and mission is tremendously effective there remains to be an unforeseen need amongst youth offenders. Implementation of the needs assessment will not only evince poor support systems in place, but also foster innovative methods for resolving immediate barriers post-program for youth offenders.

***Keywords:* Restorative justice, needs assessment, youth offenders, recidivism**

Agency & Communities Served

Restorative Justice Partners Inc. (RJP), is a Non-Profit organization that seeks to provide individuals and communities the opportunity to reconcile harm and violence. The organization was founded in 1987, and since then their sole purpose has been to “provide support and education to those affected by conflict, and to encourage accountability, reparation and empathy” (RJP, 2019). RJP comprises 4 main aspects; Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), RJ in the Schools (RJ), Merchant Accountability Program (MAP), and Victim Impact Program (VIP). In 2007, RJP founded its first ever office in Marina, California. Prior to this, RJP Board members would meet at coffee shops, libraries, and restaurants. RJP in relation to other non-profit organizations, is made up of small staffing. There are presently 9 employees working. The small staffed, high powered organization has become a platform for the community to be involved in the restoration process; the engine that keeps Restorative Justice Partners moving forward is its volunteer-based community. Volunteers in RJP have different roles depending on which program they participate in.

RJP Programs

VIP

The Victim Impact Program (VIP), has been uniquely implemented to combat the ignorance of not knowing how crime affects people and the community. This program emphasizes bringing awareness through it’s volunteer based speakers. The program seeks out survivor representatives of various crimes, and calls upon them to deliver their stories to individuals who are currently incarcerated. The goal of VIP is to directly educate inmates on how their choices to commit various acts of crime impacts the victims and their families initially and

over a period of time. Ultimately, the program seeks to use these speakers and their stories as preventative measures that fight against criminal thinking, which will decrease harm done in the community as a whole.

MAP

Implementation of education on how the deficits created by shoplifting and theft throughout Monterey County, are covered extensively by the Merchant Accountability Panel. The MAP program operates primarily to reduce citations and incarceration amongst juvenile shoplifters. In accordance with restorative justice practices, MAP supports extending second chances to juveniles by implementing rigorous education on the consequences of theft to a business, and then allowing them to right their wrong with a letter. Since the discovery of the MAP program, Monterey County has seen a decline in juvenile shoplifting citations. Because the MAP program works conjunctively with the VORP program, statistical data produced by the VORP program demonstrates the effectiveness of the MAP program as well.

RJ In the Schools

A key component to Restorative Justice practices is lived out through K-12 education. “RJ in the schools” (RJ), strives to promote a perspective of justice that derives from restorative practices rather than the traditional retributive practices of our current judicial system. This program functions in a K-12 setting, and serves to enhance effective communication, conflict resolution, and community team building of young people. Most of the active engagement in this program is done by the youth themselves. The outcomes are reached because the youth participate in healing circles, become yard duty mediators, and are a part of a school climate that seeks to repair and correct harm rather than punish and condemn crime.

VORP

The population served in the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) scope of work is geared towards victims and offenders of crimes. Victims and offenders can be all ages. However, the bulk of offenders, and the focus of the program, is dealing with youth ranging from 11 to 18 years old. Currently, there are 137 VORP cases. Once a juvenile commits a crime and meets the criteria for RJP services, they then get referred to the VORP program; the offender's Probation Officer monitors and tracks their progress and completion of program directives. VORP then connects the victim and the offender to a mediator, and collectively they begin repairing the harm done. Upon completion of the program, a contract is made between the victim and offender, and after it is honored, the case gets sent back to probation. Probation reports to the court and the case is dismissed. VORP exists as a diversion program that aims to relinquish the onslaught of criminal records for juvenile offenders and their entry into the prison pipeline. This program has been a staple for Restorative Justice Partners since the beginning of its foundation.

Problem Description

Youth are at risk of reoffending. There exists a lack of follow-up and support for juvenile offenders post-VORP program. Currently, the method for tracking recidivism is solely based on whether or not the offender's name pops back up into the VORP programs' system. According to statistical evaluations done in 2016-2017, the formula for assessing success has concluded that "89% of offenders do not reoffend 12 months post-VORP program entry" (RJP, 2019). Although these numbers favor the effectiveness of the program, there exists an 11% recidivism rate who do not retain positive outcomes. To add, there is no data tracking whether or not the 89% ever fully rehabilitate or receive the resources they need to sustain the longevity of the acquired outcome

produced by the VORP process. Thus the question is asked, “Does Restorative Justice practices actually change the outcome of the youth offender?”

Contributing Factors

There are several contributing factors that adversely affect the outcome of youth and crime. According to one study done by The National Academic Press, concluded that, “the more risk factors a child or adolescent experiences, the higher their risk for delinquent behavior” (Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Justice, pg. 66). As the lens of risk factors narrow down to three main categories, some categories to consider are; poor socioeconomic status and education, substance abuse, and uninvolved or neglectful parents. These contributing factors are crucial and can be viewed as major obstacles for youth in transition to young adulthood. It is important to address the reasons that may lead up to crime but to stand clear of all bias, and understand that these factors don’t always translate into short-term or long-term criminal behavior.

Youth who are involved with the Juvenile Justice system at some point do not have a wide network or strong support systems in place starting from their childhood. Essentials such as unity, a nuclear family framework, and collaboration are scarcely present. Currently in 2019, a data collection done by the “County Health Rankings and Roadmaps” reports that 33% of Monterey County consists of single parent households (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2019). Without two parent representation, the decline in parent-child bonds and supervision is adversely affecting the trajectory for success of these youth. In fact, studies are showing that, “Structural changes in society, including fewer two-parent homes and more maternal employment, have contributed to a lack of resources for the supervision of children's and adolescents' free time” (Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Justice, pg. 14). Essentially, adolescent

teenagers are more likely to be unsupervised during critical parts of the day, thus allowing outside influences and pressures to impact their cognitive reasoning causing susceptibility to carrying out bad choices and behaviors.

Psychologist, Courtney E. Ackerman writes in an article, “positive reinforcement can be an extremely strong force in training children to behave appropriately” (Positive Psychology, 2019). In respect to the Restorative Justice VORP program initiative, at-risk adolescent teenagers are finding themselves being referred for services, and it can be correlated with reassurance and affirmation. The criminal representation of bad behavior by the youth who enter into this program is largely in part to them not receiving positive reinforcement for any, and all, progress they make in their daily lives. Ackerman goes on to say, “positive reinforcement can simply be more effective, especially in the long-term” (Positive Psychology, 2019). The trend in youth committing crimes are linked with low school performance, substance abuse, and loosely run households. Therefore, these youths are subjected to negative reactions and outcomes every which way they turn; thus, this negatively promotes bad behavior and the likelihood of eventual criminal intent.

A journal article of Applied Research on Children by Charisa Smith, defines the juvenile justice system as a system which “fails to empower and reform individuals who are directly affected. The current system shatters social bonds...” (Smith, 2013). A consistent failure of any system is retention and recidivism. Youth aren’t being connected to additional resources post-program completion of VORP. In route to a changed mind and a changed life, the highest level of facilitation comes in the form of connection and community bonds. Restorative Justice Partners has an active ongoing partnership with a lot of elementary, middle, and even some high

schools. However, youth offenders who finish the program are deemed good and well, and unfortunately are not connected to outside reinforcements that contribute to sustainability. The disproportionate availability of resources can lead to recidivism back into the juvenile justice system.

Consequences

The harsh reality of crime amongst adolescent teenagers is that in the midst of deviant behavior education becomes impaired, or non-existent. Juvenile offenders who are constantly in trouble with the law are liable to have big gaps in their education, resulting in missing a lot of school. According to an article, “Breaking Schools’ Rules: A Statewide Study of How School Discipline Relates to Students’ Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement”, the author Fabelo indicates, “school suspension and expulsion significantly increase the likelihood that students will be held back a grade, not graduate, and become involved in the justice system (Fabelo et al. 2011). As many studies will show, missing school is a consequence that results from getting in trouble, and segways itself into an even deeper consequence of living a life in and out of incarceration.

Mental health issues can be viable answers for why crime begins, but during and after living some years of criminal behavior, there are other risk factors that can cause a deeper decline in mental health status. Substance abuse, institutionalization, and isolation, are all contributors to mental health distress. One article produced by the National Center for Biotechnology Information infers, “the juvenile justice system developed an approach that uses a punishment/criminalization perspective over a rehabilitative/medicalization perspective” (NCBI, 2019). This approach is detrimental to the overall wellbeing of young people who are most likely

acting out due to severe trauma. Aligned with retributive justice, youth are recycling in and out of institutionalized settings resulting in more trauma and long-term emotional and mental disparities. Retention of the VORP program outcomes for youth is imperative; but while the damage is continuing to resurface, it becomes more likely that youth decline at faster rates. Not before long, youth are engaging in counter productive coping mechanisms such as drugs and alcohol, risky behaviors, and more criminal activity.

Committing a crime translates into “doing time.” “Doing time,” is slang for being incarcerated. Stints in juvenile hall can increase the likelihood of juvenile offenders entering the adult criminal justice system. Juveniles, as earlier mentioned, are consequently missing their education due to poor life choices. Inevitably, the consequence of “doing time” is simultaneously intertwined with offending, reoffending, and becoming part of the juvenile justice system. The intent of the VORP program is to reroute criminal thinking and generate positive outcomes for youth who are engaging in criminal acts in their community. Yet, and still, youth continue to find themselves in a courtroom facing criminal charges at alarming rates. The result is a record. This consequence not only slows the maturation process of youth, but it is liable to become a norm, and even eliminate career aspirations or deplete overall health. According to a study done by the NCBI, the Journal Article indicates, “any incarceration during adolescence or young adulthood is associated with worse general health, severe functional limitations, stress-related illnesses...” (NCBI, 2019). Furthermore, depending on the severity of crimes criminal behavior can consequently render a life behind bars.

Problem Model

Contributing Factors	Problem	Consequences
Youth who are involved with the Juvenile Justice system fail to have consistently strong support systems	Youth are at risk of reoffending	Criminal record
Youth are not receiving positive reinforcement for progress they've made		Lengths of incarceration & educational barriers
Youth aren't being connected to additional resources post-program completion		Mental health issues

Capstone Project Description and Justification

Capstone Project

It is evident that there is an issue of engagement post-VORP program. Youth that participate in the restorative justice mediation process have only a recidivism rate of 11%. Currently, the method for tracking recidivism is based on an outside evaluator through the Monterey County Probation Department. The goal is to support this 11% of the population, as well as the 89% of the population that do not reoffend, with implementation of an intentional follow-up to the offender's post-VORP mediation (RJP, 2019). As part of the capstone project, the needs assessment was initially intended to be passed out to a focus group of 15-20 youth participants between the months of November through February, who are currently receiving VORP services. The data that was to be collected would've been analyzed to gain a deeper understanding of the potential obstacles prohibiting these youth offenders from long term success, and from recidivating back into the criminal justice system. In sum, the analysis of this

data should have been able to provide the agency with several ways of continuing the trend of decreasing recidivism.

Project Purpose

Restorative Justice Partner's main objective is to engage troubled young people, adults, families and communities, through a process eventually leading to reparation. The VORP program, in particular, is concerned with opening mediation dialogues between victims and offenders. The offender's in these cases are on the brink of entering into the prison pipeline. This project's purpose is to inform the organization of potential unforeseen barriers that can be prohibiting adolescent teenagers from retaining program outcomes. For all intents and purposes, a needs assessment will be designed in order to demonstrate youth who are involved with the Juvenile Justice system fail to have strong support systems on a consistent basis, as a possible barrier. The understanding of engagement in the youth's life, pre and post VORP mediation, can serve to better gauge whether or not more resources longer term needs to be added to prevent the youth from recidivating back into the juvenile justice system.

Project Justification

Needs assessments are critical to the development of data collection. The International Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology assert, "studies consistently find RNAs useful for improving decision making by replacing subjective decisions with more standardized and actuarial decisions" (Sage Journals, 2014). In order to combat the inevitable demise of young individuals who are on a fast track to prison or death, this assessment will prove to be of crucial importance. Essentially, introducing this assessment to the participants can be another preventative measure that allows them to think about other factors beyond their individual

circumstances. The article goes on supporting, “To systematize decision making and reduce unnecessary disparities, many of today’s community corrections agencies emphasize and use validated second- and third-generation RNA instruments to classify offenders according to their likelihood of recidivism” (Sage Journals, 2014). This assessment will help identify those that stand a greater chance of recidivating based upon their external needs and cognitive recollection of the program and restorative justice concepts.

Project Implementation

The project’s implementation was amended into a single needs assessment. The components detailing this project included, but were not limited to; creating the assessment, and creating a letter to be sent to the mediators and participants informing them of the purpose of the assessment. Aspects of the project performed in the office involved creating an Excel spreadsheet with participant information and data collected, as well as a pre evaluation informative letter, which received a final approval from agency staffing. After the finalized number of participants was determined, the assessment was to be distributed, collected, and analyzed for the purposes of providing the agency with a recommendation. While the project was being constructed, there was a worldwide pandemic in real time, which significantly impacted operations and facets of the implementation process. The assessment was never put in practical application due to strict stay at home orders by the government. As everything shifted to online, the assessment turned into an instructional outline for future employees, interns, and volunteers to use when needing to gather raw data with the intent to extract barriers and trends.

The participants involved in this assessment were planned to be teenage offenders between the ages of 14 and 17 years old. This population’s need was to be targeted by the

comprehensive needs assessment being provided, and its outcomes would have been vital for data purposes. From a technical standpoint, the agency's staffing's role of approving the capstone project content was to ensure professionalism and culturally sensitive verbiage was directed towards participants. The agency agreed to assist with carrying out the assessment via a phone interview prior to the COVID-19 pandemic taking over. Meanwhile, the intern was tasked with providing experiential, educational, and professional analysis and recommendations for the agency once the evaluation of this interview was assessed.

Due to the nature of the project, there was no need for any funding, in particular. Materials to make this project succeed were basic office equipment such as; phones, computers, printers, pens and papers, along with an office space that was going to be used to conduct the assessments.

The scope of work for this project on the front end was primarily research based. In order for the needs assessment to be curated with precise questions, it was backed by already acquired knowledge of the targeted population. As mentioned, the primary action plan was to implement a needs assessment questionnaire consisting of a total of 5 specific questions referring back to the program and personal experiences. The plan was to be carried out over the course of four months, and then evaluated on the fifth month. The people involved in this project were going to be agency staffing, the agency intern, the participants taking the assessment, and the individual case mediators were to have a stake in the process as well. A detailed implementation plan and timeline can be seen in the Scope of Work in Appendix A. The materials created for this project can be seen in Appendix B through Appendix E.

Assessment Plan

The Needs Assessment was designed to introduce a series of questions to exactly 10 youth offenders, who were participating in the VORP mediation process. Due to structural changes and modified research, the needs assessment was then redirected to target youth offenders who were no longer in the program but some time in the recent past were deemed closed-compliant. This meant that the offender successfully completed the program's mediation process. Criteria for participation at the outset was to be as followed: (a) Citations cannot predate November of 2019, (b) actively enrolled in the program and have had a mediator assigned to their case, (c) Must successfully complete the mediation process. In light of the current pandemic hindering the execution of the assessment, this model can still be mimicked to ascertain future deliverables.

In order to efficiently measure effectiveness, the plan was to distribute the needs assessments during the time of the final contract. The reason for this timing was because the final contract is a tool used at the closing of a mediation process. As a signed document between the offender and the victim, which is agreed upon by the victim, it's purpose is to establish an action plan moving forward for how the offender will amend the harm that was done. The understanding was that the offender will follow through with what was agreed upon, thus completing the program requirements. At this time, the information retained from having gone through this rigorous process, was to be judiciously captured in the assessment. Achieved outcomes the assessment desires to gather were more likely because there's a keen awareness of restorative justice practices, an emphatic coherence of harm done, and a vulnerable perspective on life altering strategies.

Expected Outcomes

Analyzing the Needs Assessment should've been a measuring stick for how effective or ineffective Restorative Justice work, in general, is. The information that was to be gathered from the assessment was expected to enhance program functions, and educate staffing on ways to develop wider networks and resources for the desired population. The overall point of the project, and what it was supposed to do for this line of work, was to create a heightened level of competency for delinquent youth who find their way into the VORP program. Also, the goal was to establish effective measures that support these youth who are struggling to maintain long term success post-program.

Project Results

In the beginning, the question was posed; "Do restorative justice practices change the outcomes for youth offenders?" The answer remains to be seen. What is known, since the start of this internship and capstone project, the implementation of restorative justice practices have been gaining mass amounts of attention; it is starting to be requested and utilized in more and more schools, organizations, and counties across California. The RJP team is seeing an increase in inquiries for the education and model of restorative justice practices to be practiced in several school districts. Leading up to the needs assessment, in real time, the world began to experience a global pandemic. This pandemic has called the implementation of the Needs Assessment to be halted abruptly. Although the desired outcomes were not captured, monumental growth in how to obtain the data required to identify cognitive dissonance, mental health deficiencies, and environmental risk factors, has been outlined by the design of this skeleton of an assessment. The project breakdown was reduced to three main variables; how big is the focus group and who

belongs in it, what needs to be asked, and who has a stake in this process and when does it need to be implemented.

Conclusion & Recommendations

The foundation of a needs assessment is vital for employing data. The chief variable in determining how to construct a needs assessment comes from researching the general needs of the population in question. With a collaborative approach between an organization and the researcher, the researcher must single out a specific barrier pertaining to the focus group, in efforts to reduce overlapping or skewed data points. Needs assessments can vary in order to surface different barriers, however, for the purposes of implementing the current needs assessment, one will only need to update the targeted focus group and receive verbal consent to conduct the assessment. Furthermore, needs assessments are time consuming. While actively planning how to materialize the assessment, the researcher is tasked with ensuring there is organization, dates and timelines, and an implementation strategy.

There were a few projects taken into consideration but never came to fruition. One of which was analyzing past data and conducting interviews with prior clients of the program. This could have been useful but was deemed problematic because the likelihood of being able to capture this data was slim. Put differently, being able to track former clients from previous years would be nearly impossible, because it would require the agency to gain consent and find updated contacts; many youth could also be out of the age range of the population of interest. Also, the data could have been skewed by the previous client's ineptitude to recollect their program participation, as achieved outcomes are a big part of the capstone project. Another

project pitch taken into consideration, was to create a banquet celebration for clients in the program who have successfully completed the program. Simultaneously, while celebrating changed behavior and new beginnings, the banquet was to be used as an informational resource fair to provide resources like employment, internship opportunities, and various other healthy alternatives that combat crime and destruction. Because of the magnitude of the event and the time frame of the project, this idea was not implemented due to financial deficiencies and the inability to properly plan out how to host such an event.

As a Collaborative Health and Human Services graduate, inclusion by way of collaboration, was detrimental to the project's goals and objectives. Aligned with the collaborative vision, RJP has built a network with the county's schools and probation department. The organization successfully transcends what it means to heal individuals, families, and communities. As their network continues to expand, and the youth being served by the VORP program grows in number, there are some recommendations to consider to keep the organization forward thinking. Although the assessment did not target the individual's personal struggles, but rather their support networks, the conclusion of the matter is that the individual should be receiving wrap around services if they are to sustain right-living. One of the final recommendations based on the research done, is to develop future partnerships that can connect youth who graduate the VORP program with additional resources outside the scope of RJP. Another recommendation, as data also reflects, youth committing crimes historically are determined to have some level of mental health issues and behavioral impulsions. RJP, as an organization founded in restoring lives and repairing harm done, might consider taking a trauma informed approach by administering assessments that could possibly help identify substance use

disorder, emotional and mental disparities, and reactionary triggers to negative circumstances, as a direct result of adverse childhood experiences (ACE's). Innovative ways to incorporate these assessments first starts with providing RJP staff with intensive trauma informed care training. In order to foster this transition some action steps to consider are; creating and learning how to make referrals, build a resource network in the community, and initiate a pilot program for firsthand experience. RJP does an excellent job repairing the harm that was done, and while this is marvelous work, undeniable evidence suggests a holistic approach may be imminent.

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Appendix A: Scope of Work

Activities	Timeline/Deadlines	Supporting Staff
Create Needs Assessment: This process took 4 revisions (Research population barriers & trends, identify culturally sensitive verbiage)	11/19 - 1/20	Veronica Miramontes/ Jennie Burciaga
Create letter to send to mediators: This process took 2 revisions. (Letter addresses to the mediators the purpose and intent of the needs assessment) <i>*Can be used but wasn't due to implementation changing to phone calls*</i>	11/19-12/19	Veronica Miramontes/ Jennie Burciaga
Create participant/parent phone dialogue sheet (The person conducting the assessment will have a script to read from to obtain consent)	11/19	Veronica Miramontes/ Jennie Burciaga
Create Participant Excel Spreadsheet (This will record and store data collected in specific categories)	1/20	Veronica Miramontes
Get final approval for Mediator letter, Participant/Parent phone dialogue sheet, Excel spreadsheet, and Needs Assessment *Approved*	12/19 - 1/20	Veronica Miramontes/ Jennie Burciaga

Determine the finalized number of participants who will be taking the needs assessment (10 Participants who are closed compliant)	1/20	Veronica Miramontes
Determine how needs assessments will be collected (to be conducted and recorded by intern and Mentor)	1/20	Veronica Miramontes/ Jennie Burciaga
Implementation of survey *Delayed*	2/20 - 03/20 (Unable to Continue Due to COVID-19)	RJP Mentor, Mediators
Analyze results (Data not collected. Project outline will be passed on to the agency)	04/20 (Unable to Continue Due to COVID-19)	Veronica Miramontes/ Jennie Burciaga
Recommendation to the agency (Based on production of assessment, the projects functions, documents, and goals were passed on to the agency for future use)	05/20 (Based on data and research, and not implementation due to COVID-19)	Caitlin Stinneford/ Susan Osorio

Appendix B: Needs Assessment

- 1. Were your parents supportive of you going through the RJP mediation process?**

- 2. Can you share 1 to 2 sentences about your experience going through this mediation process, and if you feel this has helped you in any area of your life?**

- 3. Has anything changed for you or your family since you got in trouble with the law?**

- 4. Hypothetically, if there was a way to stay connected to Restorative Justice Partners resources, would you use them?**

- 5. What do you believe restorative justice is? What does it mean to you now that you completed your mediation?**

- 6. What would help you stay on the "straight and narrow" now that you have completed your RJP mediation**

Appendix C: Mediator Letter



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PARTNERS, INC.

229 Reindollar Avenue, Suite B

Marina, CA 93933

Office: (831) 384-4325

Fax: (888) 381-3721

E-Mail: restorativejusticepartners@gmail.com

Web: www.restorativejusticepartners.org

Dear Mediator,

FINAL DRAFT APPROVED
Electronically signed by Veronica Miramontes,
Programs & Events Manager/Marshal Galvan's Mentor at RJP, Inc.

My name is Marshal Galvan Jr. I am currently in my undergraduate program at CSU Monterey Bay studying Collaborative Health and Human Services, while also interning and working part time at Restorative Justice Partners Inc. I'd like to thank you for volunteering your time to be a mediator at RJP, Inc.

Youth that participate in the restorative justice mediation process have only a recidivism rate of 11% thanks to volunteers like yourself who are trusting the restorative process in healing and reparation. Currently, the method for tracking recidivism is based on an outside evaluator through the Monterey County Probation Department. My hope is to support you, this 11% of the population, as well as the 89% that do not reoffend with implementation of an intentional follow-up to offender's post-VORP mediation. My goal is to explore ways to continue to decrease recidivism.

As part of my Capstone project, I will be conducting a survey with a focus group of VORP offenders between the month of November through the month of February. This survey will be distributed at the end of their mediation or VIA process. The data collected will be analyzed to gain a deeper understanding of the potential obstacles prohibiting these youth offenders from recidivating back into the criminal justice system.

You are an intricate part of this process because you have a stake in reparation of harm done in each particular case you engage with. This survey is being implemented to benefit a larger whole, who like you, strongly believes in restorative justice practices. Your role in all this is to ensure the participant understands, receives, and takes the survey. Please submit the finished survey to Veronica Miramontes at rjp.vorp@gmail.com

Thank you for your cooperation and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Marshal Galvan Jr.
galvanrjp@gmail.com
831-747-7438

Appendix D: Parent/Participant Phone Dialogue Script**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PARTNERS, INC.**

229 Beindollar Avenue, Suite B

Marina, CA 93933

Office: (831) 384-4325

Fax: (888) 381-3721

E-Mail: restorativejusticepartners@gmail.comWeb: www.restorativejusticepartners.org

Hello may I speak to the parent of _____ (minors name)

My name is _____ and I am a representative of Restorative Justice Partners. Your child participated in the VORP mediation process on _____ (date of mediation).

We are conducting a survey with a CSU Monterey Bay student intern who is studying Collaborative Health and Human Services. The focus group will be 10 anonymous VORP offenders. The data collected will be analyzed to gain a deeper understanding of the potential obstacles prohibiting these youth offenders from recidivating back into the criminal justice system.

Youth that participate in the restorative justice mediation process have only a recidivism rate of 11%. Which means only 11% re-offend after completing mediation. Currently, the method for tracking recidivism is based on an outside evaluator through the Monterey County Probation Department.

Thank you for your cooperation and collaboration.

Marshal Galvan Jr.
galvanrip@gmail.com
831-747-7438

RJP, Inc. provides support and education to those affected by conflict to encourage accountability, reparation, and empathy.

Appendix E: Excel Data Collection Spreadsheet

Case Number	Date Refere	First & Last name	Parents Name	Phone Number	DOB	Status of Case	Date closed	location	offense	Mediator	Med 2	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
5490	7/2/2019				03/18/03	Closed-Complazt	11/18/2019	Salinas	Battery @ School	Shrey	Tracy						
5555	11/07/19				04/27/05	Closed-Complazt		Manna	Battery @ School	Atina	Emag						
5567	12/19/2019				9/21/2004	Closed-Complazt	13-Feb	Manna	Battery	Venetas	Emag						
5492	07/18/19				02/25/05	Closed-Complazt	07/26/19	Manna	Theft	Venetas	Joslyn						
5517	08/26/19				12/03/03	Closed-Complazt	12/03/19	Seaside	Battery @ School	Venetas							
5556	11/07/19				12/2/04	Closed-Complazt		Manna	Battery @ School	Atina	Emag						
5553	11/07/19				04/03/05	Closed-Complazt	02/07/20	Salinas	Battery @ School	Fisk							
5529	11/03/19				02/05/07	Closed-Complazt	12/03/19	Salinas	Battery	Dan	Myra						
5543	10/25/19				12/28/04	Closed-Complazt	07/20/20	King City	Battery	Tom	Dora						
5506	03/12/19				09/20/04	Closed-Complazt		King City	Battery	Fisk	Cherita						